

**The following represent the State of RI Accomplishments with NCHIP funding:**

<b>1. Automated Fingerprint Identification System and Live Scan Deployment</b>
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Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) workstations and associated communication equipment were installed at the RI Department of Attorney General and Rhode Island State Police with the first NCHIP award. These workstations initiated connectivity to the state of Connecticut's AFIS.

This effort was a step in the ultimate goal to have one or more New England regional AFIS systems funded under the NCHIP program. This plan was endorsed by the New England State Police Administrator's Conference (NESPAC) upon recommendation of Search, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, with whom the Bureau of Justice Statistics contracted to explore the best approaches to AFIS implementation.

Approximately 200,000 Rhode Island fingerprint cards were converted to a digital format and automatically entered into the Connecticut system, a service contract for the AFIS workstations was negotiated and employees were trained in the use of the equipment.

In March of 1999 the State of Rhode Island requested a budget allocation change from the Bureau of Justice Statistics with regards to accumulated unencumbered NCHIP funds. The reason for said request was to hire personnel to eradicate a backlog of fingerprint cards needed to be entered into the AFIS at the repository. A loss of personnel trained to enter the fingerprint cards into the AFIS workstation had created the backlog. Funding was reallocated to finance the hiring of two AFIS technicians for two years. Those positions are now permanently financed with state funds.

Fingerprint cards received by the repository that are taken with Live Scan machines are almost always immediately entered into the AFIS workstation. This has led in many cases to the immediate discovery that a local police department has just booked an individual who is lying about their identity. Fingerprint cards not taken on livescans are entered into the AFIS workstation within a few days.

\$50,000 of NCHIP money was subgranted to the Providence Police Department to increase the data storage of their AFIS. Providence financed the purchase of its own AFIS and three Live Scan machines with Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) funds. The Providence Police operation is crucial to the state repository since over sixty-five percent of the arrests occurring in Rhode Island happen in Providence.

Rhode Island began to purchase Live Scan machines in 1997. 4 Live Scan units were placed at State Police locations, 1 unit was placed at the Intake Service Center of the RI Department of Corrections (DOC) and 1 unit was placed at the RI Department of Attorney General. The DOC, using state funding, eventually bought another unit for its Women's Division. As the funding continued Live Scan machines were bought for 21 local police agencies. Personnel were trained and the units were networked within their locations to their internal records management systems and to print the digital image at the repository.

In 2004 Cogent Systems became the state's new AFIS vendor via their partnership with the state of Connecticut. Cogent quoted Rhode Island a contract price for a state of the art booking area style Live Scan with Palm Print capabilities and a FBI certified printer.

As previously stated since the inception of NCHIP funding, the state purchased Live Scan devices for law enforcement agencies. The Live Scans have been distributed to the agencies in rank order of criminal arrests being supplied to the criminal history repository. Other agencies such as the Department of Corrections, the Department of Children, Youth and Families and the Rhode Island Lottery Commission purchased machines on their own.

The pricing scheme made available by Cogent was extremely attractive. Effective the first month after installation, the Live Scan user will begin making monthly payments to Cogent Systems in the amount of \$600.00. These payments will continue for six years. They include a reduced maintenance fee of \$200.00 per month and the \$400.00 difference is applied toward the balance of the equipment. At the end of six years the agency will have paid off the device and will retain ownership.

The benefits to the agencies are numerous. Those that already have existing outdated and non-Palm Print Live Scans will have their old equipment removed. Cogent will guarantee that the new machines will be fully connected to the new AFIS and be capable of transmitting and receiving electronic images and messages. (Individual agencies and/or the state are responsible for the communication lines between the agency and the AFIS.) There will be no up front user costs to the user agency. The agency will merely commence the monthly payments the first month after installation. This amount spread over a year, \$7200.00, is almost equal to that being paid by agencies now just for maintenance on their non-Cogent Live Scans.

The state had put aside \$252,000 in the NCHIP FY03 grant to purchase additional Live Scan machines for local police agencies. In 2002 those departments who still did not have machines were solicited as to their interest in receiving a machine. Eight departments responded in the affirmative. It was planned to rank the departments as to their volume of fingerprints sent to the repository and machines would be purchased according to that ranking as per

previous practice. This was contingent on the \$252,000 not being needed for any cost over runs for the new AFIS project. In late 2004 the costs for the new AFIS project were finalized and the Live Scans could be purchased. By that time the Cogent lease to own offer was available.

At the time the State had originally approached the local agencies about acquiring machines the cost was approximately \$55,000 and maintenance was approximately \$7,000 per year. The new pricing agreement was so advantageous, it was determined as more cost effective to divide the \$252,000 evenly among the eight departments; let them purchase machines and interfaces themselves and then assumes the remainder of the lease-to-own agreement, rather than just buy the minimum number of machines with the \$252,000. Accordingly the State granted \$31,500 to each of the eight (8) agencies to pay partial costs for Cogent Live Scans.

Many departments around the state who have the older machines that were bought with NCHIP funds are now replacing that equipment with other funding in order to take advantage of the Cogent offer.

#### ***Measurable results***

- ***AFIS technology attained at an affordable price for a small state***
- ***Policies initiated and permanent personnel hired to prevent backlog of fingerprint entry into repository and ultimately into CT AFIS***
- ***Expansion of memory to Providence police AFIS***
- ***Over eighty-seven percent (87%) of the total fingerprints in Rhode Island now taken in a digital format – number expected to increase to over 95% by end of 2005***
- ***Live Scans networked with internal records management systems to prevent duplicate data entry and possibility of error in arrestee demographic data***
- ***Ability to query IAFIS for ten-print and latent inquiries***
- ***Palm-Print technology attained at an affordable price***

## **2. New Criminal History Record Repository with Sex Offender Registry and Restraining Order/No Contact Order Modules**

Rhode Island's NCHIP FY97 and National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) FY98 application addressed attaining **technological** compliance with the Interstate Identification Index (III), creation of a Sex Offender Registry database and

conversion of the existing Restraining Order/No Contact Order (RONCO) database. To achieve these goals, Rhode Island had to purchase and install hardware and software capable of running the above system, interfacing to the Rhode Island Telecommunications System (RILETS) message switch, transmitting to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), and creating reports.

The above conversion, database installation and interfaces have been performed by Computer Projects of Illinois (CPI). Said vendor, as part of their bid for the new message switcher installed at the RI State Police (funded through Byrne as an essential part of the state's criminal justice information integration efforts) proposed the custom criminal history package. The installation was delayed until after 2000 because the vendor had customers in other states with Y2K problems.

The new criminal history system operates under a relational database environment, utilizing Oracle software. The package provides for complete tracking of criminal history information from arrest to disposition and provides for custom reporting and an audit trail for entries, edits and deletions. Additionally, the criminal history is now integrated with the restraining order, registered sex offender and gun permit databases.

Presently, the criminal history repository contains 795,813 records, with 676,537 or 85% with a disposition. The restraining order file has 4841 warrants with expiration dates and over 32,552 with no expiration dates. The sex offender registry contains 1644 records.

#### ***Measurable results***

- ***Migration from proprietary WANG mainframe to a UNIX- based open architecture hardware platform***
- ***Conversion of the existing antiquated WANG/PACE criminal history database to modern relational databases which are much easier to manipulate, access and maintain***
- ***Creation of a Sex Offender file***
- ***Creation of RONCO file***
- ***Integration of criminal history with sex offender registry, restraining order database and pistol permit databases***
- ***Advanced capabilities allowing for real-time queries by law enforcement***
- ***System became III compliant in 2002***

- ***Adoption of Uniform RAP Sheet***
- ***Electronic connectivity between the RI criminal history system and NCIC became operational in August 2002***
- ***Programming enhancements added to Sex Offender database to enable periodic reports to contributing agencies***

### **3. Sex Offender Registration Equipment and Training for Law Enforcement Agencies**

NSOR funds were used to purchase digital cameras and train personnel from local police departments to photograph registrants. 45 digital cameras were ordered and delivered to the state crime laboratory where distribution and training was conducted.

Other funds in the award were used for training of Parole Board, Corrections, local law enforcement and court personnel with regards to registration of sex offenders and sex offender community notification. Training sessions were held in 1999 and 2000 and conducted through the RI Municipal Police Training Academy.

#### ***Measurable Results***

- ***Personnel from state and local agencies trained in the use of similar digital photography equipment***
- ***Personnel from stakeholder agencies trained in registration and notification procedures***

### **4. Improved Disposition Reporting in the Courts and to the Criminal History Repository**

In December 1999, the Rhode Island court system replaced its twenty-year old criminal records management information system. In August 2000 the juvenile court software was also replaced. The installation of the software is part of a long-term endeavor to create a comprehensive statewide criminal and juvenile justice information system. This cooperative initiative includes all state and local criminal and juvenile justice agencies and is funded through a combination of federal, state and local funds.

The new software provides the courts with an enhanced records management system that combines criminal case data, including dispositions, sentences; warrant information, and assessment and collection of fees. Previously it was necessary to glean these data from three separate systems. A key feature of the

system is the ability to depict all sentences and dispositions associated with a defendant on one screen. In the old PROMIS system each case docket had to be searched for the data. The system has records dating back to 1980. It contains information on over 185,000 defendant's 400,000 individual cases. The juvenile system includes almost 100,000 cases.

All warrants issued by the courts reside in this system and currently number some 47,642. An addition 7,290 affidavit and arrest warrants are also contained in the system.

Another beneficial by-product of the new hardware and software installed in the courts has been the increase in computerized information now available, particularly in the district courts which handle misdemeanors, initial felony appearances and bail hearings. Sixth Division District Court, covering Providence and the surrounding metropolitan area regularly experienced data entry backlogs resulting in the entry of only skeletal docket information. With the placement of computer terminals in the courtrooms, clerks in Sixth Division now enter docket information *real-time*. This has proven particularly significant in the area of dispositions. Any user seeking misdemeanor disposition data now finds much more complete information.

The implementation of new software in the criminal courts has provided the foundation for enhanced timelines of disposition data entry and has generally improved on the computerized docket information. To capitalize on this, the courts have used NCHIP funds to program a report, which electronically sends both district and superior court disposition data to the BCI. BCI personnel review this file and make the appropriate disposition entries.

### ***Measurable Results***

- ***District Courts now entering all docket information including disposition data into the system***
- ***Report including district and superior court dispositions sent electronically to BCI***

## **5. AFIS Case Management System (ACMS)**

Even though the majority of fingerprints in Rhode are taken digitally with Live Scan devices, the RI BCI had to place fingerprint cards in an envelope and mail them to the FBI for inclusion in the national database. The same procedure was necessary with cards sent to Connecticut for inclusion in the AFIS, since they are not sending fingerprints to the FBI electronically either. The purchase and installation of an ACMS store and forward device has enabled proprietary Live Scan images to be transformed into NIST files and be electronically transmitted to the FBI's CJIS WAN in WV.

### ***Measurable Results***

- ***Project completed in 2002***
- ***Reduced time in which fingerprints are entered into the FBI CJIS WAN***
- ***Need for human intervention eliminated, printing and rescanning does not compromise the quality of the digital image***

<b>6. Electronic transmission of Providence Police digital fingerprints to the criminal history repository</b>
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The Providence Police Department is the largest contributor in the state to the criminal history repository. However, until recently their Live Scans were not networked to the repository. When the Providence Police made an arrest their Bureau of Criminal Identification attempted to make a positive identification through Live Scan technology and comparison in its own internal AFIS database. Fingerprints were then reproduced on a card, which had to be physically brought to the repository to be checked against the larger AFIS connection with CT. All other departments using Live Scan technology transmit their prints electronically to the repository where they are then scanned for comparison with the CT AFIS database.

In 2003 members of the RI Department of Attorney General, Division of Bureau of Criminal Identification, the Rhode Island State Police and the Providence Police met to discuss an upgrade to the Providence Police equipment and conversion to a paperless electronic submission of fingerprint images.

The Providence Police were granted funds from the FY02 NCHIP award to purchase a store and forward transmission interface to enable the automated communication between their agency and the criminal history repository. The Providence Police Department negotiated with their equipment vendor, purchasing and installing the device during 2003 and 2004. This device has greatly enhanced the department's fingerprint-based identification services, capability and capacity. The enhancements consist of better tracking and management of criminal cases, elimination of redundant entry of offender and case data and the improved accessibility of criminal record information among external law enforcement agencies. In May of 2004 the Department accepted the fully completed and tested interface.

The following represents the number of fingerprints sent to the repository by the Providence Police for the years 2003 and 2004. The 17% increase is attributed to the seamless transmission of records.

Year	Number of Prints	% Increase
2003	6465	
2004	7535	17%

Additionally, the department upgraded all computer workstations in their Bureau of Criminal Identification unit. These computers have made significant improvement to the departments' day-to-day booking operation. The equipment has given officers timely access to criminal history information and helped them on weekly basis officers properly identify individuals who have lied about their identity.

### ***Measurable Results***

- ***Project completed in 2004***
- ***Electronic fingerprint records now electronically transmitted to the criminal history repository eliminating mailing of fingerprint cards***
- ***Bureau of Criminal Identification workstations upgraded enhancing work flow and ability to identify offenders***

## **7. Upgrades to the RILETS Network**

The number of users on the RILETS network has grown dramatically since a new switcher was installed in 1997. RILETS handles all in-state transmission of fingerprint data to and from the criminal history, as well as interstate transmission to the AFIS database in CT. Local agencies communicate over RILETS for all criminal information data checks to the state repository and all requests for federal information. Digital images will soon be made available over the network from the Department of Correction INFACIS database. The BCI also uses RILETS to transmit data to and from the Interstate Identification Index (III), NCIC and other federal databases.

Utilizing NCHIP FY01 funds the Rhode Island State Police RILETS Unit has upgraded all hardware and software that was installed on the RILETS system in 1997. The Bull servers have been replaced with state of the art redundant RISC servers. Increases to the memory and disk drives have enhanced "processing power" and the system vendor also installed the latest version of the system software to allow for better user tracking and authorizations. The ORACLE databases were all upgraded. Upgrades were made which created an instantaneous fail over if the main system fails. Now within 10 seconds the live or operating RILETS system is transferred to a backup system and is fully functional. The disk storage was also significantly enhanced. Finally, depending



on usage each user's network bandwidth has been increased to T1, fractional T1 or 56K.

(A request for additional funds to complete the network bandwidth increases is pending in the Rhode Island State Police's FY06 general revenue budget. A similar request in the state FY05 budget was not granted.)

In order to access the AFIS in CT a T-1 line was installed connecting the RILETS to the CT State Police and a T-1 line was installed connecting the criminal history repository to RILETS. Additionally, the RI State Crime Laboratory was connected to CT via a T-1 line. Redundant Cisco 1700 routers were installed in CT to handle the transmissions.

### ***Measurable Results***

- ***Project completed in 2004***
- ***Enhanced processing power***
- ***Improved accountability through tracking and authorizations – audit trail***
- ***Databases upgraded to ORACLE 8.0***
- ***Rapid and automatic back-up system created eliminating downtime and manual system transfers***
- ***Disk storage size doubled***
- ***12 user's bandwidth increased***